

Recycling & Refuse Management Committee Minutes

April 7, 2011

Liars can figure and figures can lie.

In attendance: Susan Waite, Lucy McMurrer, Meg Vickery, Marianne Lorenzelli, Sue Morello, John Root

March Minutes approved.

Membership Update & Committee housekeeping

- Several committee members have contacted various people but no one has found anyone who will make a solid commitment. Andrew Bellak would be willing to help out as an ad-hoc member.
- Susan working with the clerk's office to confirm that our conflict of interest status and resignation status is all up-to-date.

Select Board Report re: Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution

- Susan, Meg, and Lucy went to the meeting to provide information to the select board.
- Select Board voted to pass the resolution.
- Article in this week's Gazette.
- Stephanie O'Keefe will write letter to state legislators to let them know that this resolution has been passed in Amherst.

Landfill Alternatives Update

- Many area landfills will be closing and alternatives will be needed.
- Zero waste (for example Nantucket).
- Waste to Energy – Guilford is exploring this, slag can supposedly be used for construction. Need to find out about emissions issues.
- Integrative Design – Michael Singer has designed an attractive and cost-effective transfer station in Arizona. Meg is investigating this. He has also worked on designs for waste to energy plants.
- The Sub-committee should talk with Jan Ameen in Franklin Co. (Ex. Dir. of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District) about their use of incineration.
- Solar panels on the landfill: These would provide sustainable energy and income would offset the cost of running the transfer station. Without this income we can probably only run the transfer station for another 2 years. Negative response from some people who live in Amherst Woods.
- Guilford would like to meet with the subcommittee. Thu. 4/21 or Fri. 4/22 are both likely meeting times. Susan will confirm with Guilford.

Amherst Sustainability Festival Planning

- Thanks to Susan for all the effort she puts into this.
- WGBY website will have links to all the events in the various towns.
- PVTa will provide a bus on which 93.9 “The River” bands will play, which will travel from Northampton to Amherst.
- Susan distributed posters—please post.
- Our booth: 10x10 “tent” and one uncovered space. Fun, interactive place. Staffing sign-up for 10:00-4:00. We’ll have a demo composter on-site for sale & will give away under the sink compost buckets.
- Does anyone have a source for someone who would speak about composting?
- Eco-Hero Hunt – Opportunity for downtown merchants to tout what they do that makes them an Eco-Hero. Patrons fill out a form throughout town and there is a prize drawing once forms are submitted. The hunt will be on for both Saturday and Sunday. Hunt forms will be available at our booth and at participating merchants.

Trash-Free Lunch Day Planning

- April 15th.
- Meg will be at Wildwood. Lucy at Crocker Farm. Sue at Ft. River.
- Posters in the cafeterias.
- All schools will sort food, milk cartons, and trash. Cardboard trays can be stacked and collected separately if any school uses these.
- Volume and weight is compared between schools. Photos taken.
- Think about a surprise trash-free day in the fall.

New Business

- Sue reported on attending a recycling conference in Boxboro. Had conversations about town-wide organic recycling. Find a hauler – UMass has a hauler. Hamilton & Wenham do curbside composting. Manchester-Essex High School green team does hallway composting – students empty the buckets. Heard about textile recycling, as well.
- Unwanted Medication Collection Day – April 30, Wildwood School, 10:00-2:00. No liquids.